

## REVIEWS

### **Fifty Years in the Field. Essays in Honour and Celebration of Richard Shutler Jr's Archaeological Career**

Edited by Stuart Bedford, Christophe Sand, and David Burley  
 New Zealand Archaeological Association Monograph 25,  
 2002, Auckland. Paperbound, A4 (21 x 29.5 cm), 260 pages,  
 numerous illustrations (maps, drawings, and photographs);  
 NZ\$45.00, available through the NZAA  
 Website: [www.nzarchaeology.org/mono](http://www.nzarchaeology.org/mono).

*Review by Mike Carson and Dave Tuggle*  
*International Archaeological Research Institute,*  
*Inc., Honolulu*

In their introduction, the editors of this tribute to Richard Shutler and his "many contributions to Pacific archaeology" tell us that they were inspired to prepare the festschrift not only because of the value and scope of his archaeological research, but because of his "collegial generosity." *Fifty Years in the Field* is a success in two ways, as a compilation of valuable research articles, and as a volume where the honoree's own contributions and character are well demonstrated, not abandoned after the opening pages, as they often are in festschrift.

The volume has seven sections: Introduction, Overviews, New Guinea, Micronesia, Southern Melanesia, Central and Eastern Pacific, The Far East [Pacific], and A Last Word, with a total of 21 articles by 39 authors. Acknowledgements and References accompany each article.

The papers cover a range of important topics, including basic chronologies and material culture catalogues for a number of areas in the west and central Pacific that typically receive little scholarly attention, and their compiled publication is much appreciated. Most of the chapters appear to be either updates of older papers or else summary reports of recent multi-season work, but together, they give the reader a good impression of research issues and the kinds of archaeological material encountered in the region. This book will certainly be valuable to students of Pacific prehistory, and it should also be of interest to professionals and scholars working in the region and in nearby areas.

The Introduction is a summary of Shutler's career and a list of his publications, and as such it should have been called the Shutler Biography, and a real introductory chapter providing a comprehensive overview of the book would have been a useful addition. The Introduction also contains four personal reminiscences about Shutler that are interesting and valuable contributions to the history of archaeology in the Pacific. Through an unfortunate editorial oversight, they are buried in the Introduction and not listed in the Table of Contents. These are by Wilhelm Solheim, William Dickinson, Roger Green, and Yosihiko Sinoto.

Regarding the editing in general, the editors have done a good job; there are few typographical errors, and they have generally successfully met the challenge of editing several

articles that were originally in a language other than English. One editorial improvement would have been inclusion of better location maps. By and large, however, the illustrations, photographs, and tables throughout the book are informative and nicely reproduced. Particularly interesting and useful are the figures and summary tables of portable artifacts in many of the papers, notably in those by Szabó and Summerhayes, Shutler et al., and Bedford and Spriggs. (One minor detail: the cover illustration is said to be from the Shutler and Shutler 1975 "Oceanic Prehistory" volume; but if we remember correctly this was the cover for an entire series of valuable teaching modules of Cummings Publishers, not just the Shutler selection.)

The following are comments on individual papers, following their order in the volume.

Roger Green's "Rediscovering the Social Aspects of Ancestral Oceanic Societies through Archaeology, Linguistics, and Ethnology," is a welcome updated synthesis of his remarkable work of interdisciplinary integration. It is written as a research report and not an essay, and so includes an excellent list of references. There have been many advances in research methods and of course in accumulation of primary data over the decades since Green began doing this kind of work, and this is well articulated. (It might be noted that some recent criticism of this research appears to refer to older concepts and data, so this update may serve several ends.) This type of research also always forces us to think about how we draw conclusions (and of course how we evaluate conclusions drawn by others), the constant struggle of meshing data, models and complicated theoretical arguments.

Jim Specht's chapter on Lapita obsidian is another good update of an important research issue in western-central Pacific archaeology. The long-distance transport of volcanic glass has been key to many models of voyaging and trading. The primary data have been interpreted in a number of ways over the past years, and Specht does a good job streamlining the different perspectives and presenting a coherent summary of the data. In addition, he provides previously unpublished data, greatly improving what the rest of us are able to know about the distribution of volcanic glass in the region, and as a bonus includes an excellent bibliography of obsidian references.

Matthew Spriggs provides an updated study of his work on anthropomorphic images in Lapita ceramics (first published in 1990). This paper is a good example of how archaeologists can benefit from getting out of more restricted archaeological modes, in this case by employing an art historian type of approach to artifact analysis. Green began this with Lapita work many years ago, and recently Christophe Sand has also begun to publish on this sort of thing (for example: C. Sand, 2001, "Ancestral Oceanic art: The Lapita design system," in C. Stevenson, G. Lee, and F.J. Morin, eds. *Pacific 2000: Proceedings of the fifth international conference on Easter Island and the Pacific*. Easter Island Foundation. Bearsville Press, Los Osos, California). As Spriggs says, there is a "need to develop ways of looking at Lapita that free us from the tyranny of our own ethnographic experiences, or Lapita will never look different than the palm-fringed villages of today that most of us stay in when we do our fieldwork."

Wal Ambrose's chapter ("Big Pots on a Small Lou Island") is a concise summary of archaeological work on Lou Island. This chapter is mostly concerned with communicating primary data, which are well reported, and hopefully this publication will generate more interest and research. The conclusion also provides important comments on Manus ceramic stylistic development.

Jack Golson offers a scholarly synthesis concerning the antiquity of "Gourds in New Guinea, Asia and the Pacific," based on the reassessment of the age and taxonomic identification of gourd remains collected nearly 40 years ago in the Papua New Guinea Highlands, and he discusses the research implications for prehistorians. This is related to a paper Green published in *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, 2000 and Golson's contribution offers some new insights about the larger pattern of contacts in the Indo-Malaysian region.

Ian Lilley discusses the research implications of Lapita and Type Y pottery in Siassi, which is a particularistic topic, but nonetheless an important one. The significance is that this pottery is potentially an important piece in the puzzle of reconstructing spatial and chronological patterns in pottery production in the New Guinea region. In addition, the results carry implications for the different evolutionary trajectory of pottery production at the end of dentate-stamped Lapita pottery production in the region.

The Katherine Szabó and G. Summerhayes article is another excellent summary of a limited topic, in this case, portable shell artifacts from an early Lapita context in the Anir Islands. As they indicate, their "sample is large, stratigraphically secure and diverse" and "greatly extends present data available for the Early Lapita period in the Bismarck Archipelago." The value of the article is enhanced by the excellent artifact illustrations. [A note of clarification from MC: The paper compares their collection to many of the New Caledonian shell artifacts published in an article by C. Sand, "Changes in non-ceramic artifacts during the prehistory of New Caledonia," in G.R. Clark, A.J. Anderson, and T. Vundilo (eds), 2001, *The Archaeology of Lapita Dispersal in Oceania*, Terra Australis 17, Pandanus Books, Canberra, but the original source for much of that data is work in a Polynesian Outlier, available in M.T. Carson, 2002, *Inter-cultural contact and exchange in Ouvea (Loyalty Islands, New Caledonia)*. Ph. D., Dissertation, Department of Anthropology, University of Hawaii at Manoa. This is one of the few good collections of material culture from controlled excavation in the region. These materials are from deposits that date as early as AD 1000, but are mostly post-AD 1500. The data suggest a continuity in artifact forms over a very large part of the Pacific and over a few millennia.]

J. Peter White, C. Coroneos, V. Neall, W. Boyd, and R. Torrence provide a concise summary of archaeological findings at the FEA Site in Boduna Island. Although archaeologists have worked here in the past, the only widely available publication has been a paper by Ambrose and Gosden in J. Allen and C. Gosden (eds), 1991, *Report of the Lapita Homeland Project*, Occasional Papers in Prehistory No. 20, Department of Prehistory, ANU, Canberra. The new data are most welcome, and it is hoped that more published work from this area will soon appear. This paper also directs readers to other

published data from the surrounding region and to interpretive work that might otherwise go unnoticed.

William Ayres and C. Scheller discuss one of the all-too-rare exercises in experimental archaeology in the Pacific, in this case the transport of massive stones in Pohnpei to simulate prehistoric actions required to move stone for monumental construction and for use as the large kava pounding anvils. This was a scaled experiment that did not include moving rock of the largest size found at Nan Madol, but it was successful in demonstrating "the general principles and especially the potential of rafting for moving columnar rock through the lagoon from around the island..."

Michiko Intoh and W. Dickinson summarize their research concerning the sources of ceramics on the coral island of Fais, based on technological and petrological analysis. In the process of doing this they also provide a review of comparative ceramic data from western Micronesia, and conclude with the implications for history of contact. This is a very valuable summary of comparative ceramic data.

The Stuart Bedford and M. Spriggs paper presents data on shell, stone, and bone from the early end of the Vanuatu sequence (3000-2000 B.P.), and accompany the summary with informative illustrations and data tables. A bit of caution is required with the shell comparisons because some of referenced collections of Loyalty Islands shell are later in age (as indicated in discussion of the Carson dissertation, above). However, anyone interested in regional comparative work can easily use the data in this chapter.

The paper on fishing in New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands by Janet Davidson, F. Leach, and C. Sand exemplifies the outstanding contribution that good laboratory methods and analysis can make to our understanding of prehistory. The typology of marine environments in New Caledonia is concise and accurate, and it should be used as the basis of further work in the region. Archaeologists in the Pacific are often rather casual in their collection of non-artifactual remains, and this study demonstrates (again) why that is detrimental to our understanding of basic issues in subsistence and economy.

Bill Dickinson provides a study of the geology of New Caledonia as relevant to the identification of pottery temper provenance. Given the geologic complexity of this region, this synthesis is no easy task, but it is accomplished well by Dickinson. The conciseness of the discussion does not leave room for background information, but this paper sets the groundwork for anyone doing similar studies in New Caledonia, and could also be good model for similar work elsewhere

The paper by Christophe Sand, P. V. Kirch, and J. Coil is an update of a rather long-term effort in the reanalysis of "a revolutionary project," the 1952 Gifford and Shutler New Caledonia expedition, the major publication of this reanalysis being the 1997 volume edited by Kirch, M. Weisler and E. Casella, *Towards a Prehistory of the Koné Region, New Caledonia*, Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers No. 82. The present paper summarizes that volume and includes some new data from James Coil and some corrections by Christophe Sand. This reanalysis is itself an homage to Shutler (and Gifford) because it depends on and demonstrates the high quality of the collection methods and recording of a 50-year-old field project.

[Note from MC: There are new primary data from this area that may affect some of their conclusions; the interested reader can find relevant commentary in M.T. Carson, 2003, *Phase Two Archaeological study, Koniambo Project, Regions of Voh, Koné, and Pouembout, Northern Province, New Caledonia*; International Archaeological Research Institute, Inc., Honolulu, and at [www.iarii.org/newcaledonia.htm](http://www.iarii.org/newcaledonia.htm)]

Mary E. Shutler, R. Shutler Jr., and S. Bedford present a summary and update of the baseline archaeological data that the Shutlers originally reported for Southern Vanuatu in the 1960s. Bedford brings a new perspective, and he discusses how the 1960s data are important for newer research topics and directions in Vanuatu archaeology. Placing the older data in the context of new research is valuable enough in itself, but this article also provides a useful compiled table of radiocarbon dates and includes numerous previously unpublished photographs from that early excavation, and superb photographs they are.

Marshall Weisler's chapter on the identification of otoliths in the archaeological assemblage from Gifford and Shutler's 1950s work in New Caledonia is a nice compliment to the Davidson et al. paper in this volume. Weisler was able to identify specimens of bonefish, whiting, and javelinfish. This paper will hopefully encourage more work to identify fish otoliths. Weisler's work shows a significant increase in represented species diversity, so the identification is not a trivial exercise.

David Burley, A. Storey, and J. Witt present an update and summary of the Lapita ceramic assemblage in Tonga. There is a substantial amount of information on this subject, and the authors have done an excellent job of synthesizing it. There are a couple of important references that are missing (P. V. Kirch, 1978, "The Lapitoid Period in West Polynesia: Excavations and Survey in Niutoputapu, Tonga." *Journal of Field Archaeology*, Vol. 5:1-13; and T. S. Dye, 1996, "Early Eastern Lapita to Polynesian Plainware at Tongatapu and Lifuka: An Exploratory Data Analysis and Comparison," in J.M. Davidson et al., (eds.), *Oceanic Culture history: Essays in Honour of Roger Green*. Special publication by New Zealand Journal of Archaeology, Auckland), and it might have been useful to have a more detailed discussion of a similar (but now 10 years old) paper by Sand published in French in 1992 in a volume with very limited circulation. The authors have valuable conclusions about population movements and ceramic diversification, which as they say "will raise the ire of at least some of our colleagues who support a more traditional model for west to east exploration." Given this, it might have been to their advantage to have presented more documentation of stratigraphic context and an expanded set of comparative illustrations, but the sources for such data are presented to allow these data to be searched out.

Geoffrey Clark offers a paper about the spatial and chronological distribution of basalt adzes found in archaeological contexts in Fiji but having chemical signatures of Samoa (and probably specifically relating to the Tatagamatau adze quarry in Tutuila, American Samoa). This is a major topic in Polynesian archaeology, telling us about the nature of voyaging in prehistory, the nature of basalt adze quarry industries, and possibly the nature of a trading economy. Clark does

a good job summarizing the available data from Fiji. Hopefully, more data will accrue over time with new work, and Geoff Clark's paper here can serve as the basis for more detailed discussions.

Atholl Anderson, S. Haberle, G. Rojas, A. Seelenfreund, I. Smith, and T. Worthy's paper concerning research on Robinson Crusoe Island (aka Más a Tierra), Juan Fernandez Archipelago is perhaps a bit out of place in this volume, but in the spirit of a "festival of writings" there is no need to dwell on that. This is part of an interesting project, a "programme of archaeological and paleoenvironmental research which aims to work on each of the remote eastern archipelagos of the South Pacific...It has a primary paleoenvironmental focus, which seeks to reconstruct archipelagic environments before and after settlements by Europeans, and to formulate ways of separating natural from human induced changes in sedimentary and palynological records." Further, for many of these islands, including Robinson Crusoe, there is little or no evidence for prehistoric occupation, which is important information concerning the long-term understanding of Pacific colonization.

The final chapter, "On Shutler and Marck 1975," is by Jeff Marck. This and the Introduction, which highlights Shutler's career, are complementary "bookends." The chapter includes a reminiscence about Shutler, and is also a reflection on one of Shutler's critical papers, as referenced in the chapter title, R. Shutler and J. Marck, 1975, "On the Dispersal of the Austronesian Horticulturalists." *Archaeology and Physical Anthropology in Oceania*, 10(2):81-113. The current paper is an opportunity for Marck to respond to attacks on the model presented in the 1975 paper and to bring in some new research to update the 1975 position. We found this to be one of the best chapters in the book, and a fitting closing tribute to Dick Shutler.



## THE RIDDLE OF PRE-CONTACT WORLD MAPS and a review of

### *1421, the Year China Discovered America*

by Gavin Menzies (Harper-Collins, New York, 2002)  
*Review and Comments by Herbert von Saher,  
the Netherlands*

## FIRST THE FACTS...THEN THE FANTASY

The world has paid little attention to the fact that, during the last few centuries, a number of early maps have turned up. These give an accurate picture of the coasts of Africa and North and South America, and they date from years BEFORE European explorers had arrived in these areas. A most intriguing question poses itself: who could have created them? These maps include:

1) A map drawn by Fra Mauro, a Venetian cartographer, in 1459. It shows a clear picture of South Africa including the Cape of Good Hope. The first-known European to round the Cape was the Portuguese Bartolomeu Dias, in 1488. What makes this map so sensational are the notes on the side of it, indicating that, around 1420, a ship coming from India was driven around the Cape, that is to say in the direction op-